

I. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A construction member for a roof truss, said construction member comprising:

a longitudinal body having at least a base and two upright side walls, wherein each of said upright side walls extends longitudinally beyond said base to thereby form opposed flange portions at longitudinal ends thereof, said opposed flange portions including opposed and co-axially aligned, internally pressed circular sections, said internally pressed circular sections having a first radial center; and

wherein each of said flange portions extends beyond said base in a substantially semicircular arrangements arrangement having a second radial center, whereby [[the]] said second radial centers center of each of said semicircular flange flanges further define the defines said first radial centers center of said internally pressed circular sections section associated therewith.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The construction member of claim 1, wherein said construction member further includes at least one receival portion along its length, said at least one receival portion having said opposed and co-axially aligned, internally pressed circular sections associated with said upright side walls, said side wall internally pressed circular sections being configured to receive and rotatably engage said internally pressed sections of said opposed flange portions of a further construction member.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The construction member of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said internally pressed circular sections of said opposed flange portions are correspondingly shaped with said internally pressed sections of said receival portion, such that when oppose opposed flange portions of a first construction member engage with those of the receival portion of a second construction member, said first construction member is rotatable by way of engagement of corresponding internally pressed circular sections.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The construction member of claim 4, wherein each of said internally pressed sections further includes a central apertures aperture, whereby when opposed flange portions of said first construction member engage with those of said receival portion of said second construction member, said apertures of each internally pressed sections become co-axially aligned.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 4, wherein said first and second construction members are further lockable at a predetermined angle with respect to one another.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 6, wherein said first and second construction members are lockable at a predetermined angle with respect to one another using a bolt adapted to extend through co-axially aligned apertures of said internally pressed sections.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 7, wherein each of said opposed flange portions of at least said first construction member includes a ferrule positioned transversely therebetween, said ferrule being configured to prevent internal deflection of said flange portions when said bolt is tightened.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 8, wherein said ferrule is cylindrical and is of a diameter slightly greater than that of said internally pressed sections of opposed flange portions.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 1, wherein at least a longitudinal portion of said construction member further includes two upper edges extending inwards from said upright side walls to thereby form a longitudinal channel therebetween.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 10, wherein said upper edges of said construction member are splayed above and adjacent said at least one receival portion, to thereby allow for the opposed flange portions of a further construction member to be received therethrough.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 11, wherein when a first construction member is received within said receival portion of a second construction member, and a compressive force is applied to said upright side walls of said receival portion, said splayed upper edges of said second construction member bite into said upright side walls of said first construction member and thereby provide a secondary locking means.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 11, wherein said splayed upper edges extend substantially upwardly and outwardly and then inwardly from said upright side walls.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 10, wherein said construction member does not include upper edges above and adjacent said at least one receival portion, to thereby allow for the opposed flange portions of a further construction member to be received therethrough.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The construction member of claim 1, wherein said base includes a longitudinal indent.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A connection for roof truss members, said connection comprising:

a first member including two parallel and spaced apart longitudinal surfaces having a pair of inwardly pressed and transversely aligned circular sections ~~associated with~~ at an end thereof; and

a second member including two parallel and spaced apart longitudinal surfaces having a pair of inwardly pressed and transversely aligned circular sections at a predetermined position along the length of said second member, said second member further having two transversely opposed, upper gripping edges above said pair of inwardly pressed circular sections;

said first and second members adapted to be connected by way of engagement of said first member circular sections within said second member circular sections allowing said first and second members to rotate relative to one another, said first member further being lockable at a predetermined angle relative to said second member by applying an inward force on said engaging circular portions, said inward force further causing said upper gripping edges to grip the corresponding longitudinal surfaces of said first member.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 16, wherein each of said first and second member circular sections include a central aperture, whereby when two pairs of said circular sections engage one another, said central apertures are coaxially aligned.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 17, wherein said second member is rotatable relative to said first member about a shaft adapted to extend through said coaxial apertures.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 18, wherein said shaft is in the form of a bolt, which provides said inward force when turned in a tightening direction.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 19, wherein said connection includes means to maintain said spaced apart relationship between said parallel surfaces of said first member despite tightening of said bolt.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 16, wherein said first member comprises a chord member of the roof truss.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The connection of claim 16, wherein said second member comprises a stiffening member of the roof truss.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A metal roof truss, comprising:

at least one longitudinal stiffening member having a base, first and second ends, two parallel and spaced apart side walls, and parallel and spaced apart end flanges disposed on at least said first end of said stiffening member, said side walls extending a predetermined distance longitudinally beyond said base to thereby form parallel and spaced apart end flanges; and

at least one longitudinal chord member having a base, two parallel and spaced apart side walls, and at least one receiving section, whereby said at least one receiving section is adapted to receive said end flanges of said stiffening member, said end flanges and said receiving sections including inwardly pressed circular sections configured such that said end flanges and receiving sections rotatably engage.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 23, wherein said end flanges extend beyond said base in a substantially semicircular arrangement and include inwardly pressed circular sections, whereby the radial centers of each said flange also define the radial centers of said inwardly pressed circular sections.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 23, wherein said metal roof truss includes a lower chord member adapted to lie substantially flat and parallel to the ground and two upper chord members connected at an apex above said lower chord member and to opposed ends of said lower chord member in a triangular arrangement.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 25, wherein said metal roof truss includes a web of stiffening members that support said upper and lower chord members.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 23, wherein said chord and said stiffening members further include upper edges extending along at least a portion of said chord and said stiffening members, said upper edges defining an open longitudinal channel therebetween.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 23, wherein said receiving section of said chord member includes splayed upper edges located above and adjacent said inwardly pressed sections, said splayed edges extending substantially upwardly and outwardly and then inwardly toward said parallel and spaced apart side walls of said stiffening member.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 23, wherein each said inwardly pressed circular section of said chord and said stiffening members includes an aperture at its center, whereby when engaged, said internally pressed sections of said chord and said stiffening member become coaxially aligned.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 28, wherein said inwardly pressed sections include co-axially aligned apertures and said stiffening member is lockable to said chord member using a bolt adapted to extend through said co-axially aligned apertures.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 30, including a cylindrical ferrule locked between said semicircular flanges and said side walls and wherein when said bolt is tightened, said semicircular flanges and side walls are prevented from internally deflecting by said cylindrical ferrule.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 30, wherein just prior to said bolt being tightened, the free end of said stiffening member is able to rotate about said bolt.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 30, wherein when said bolt is tightened, said internally extending splayed edge bites into said side walls of said stiffening member thereby acting as a secondary locking means.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The metal roof truss of claim 25, wherein said roof truss includes an upper apex, and wherein an apex plate joins said stiffening member and said chord member at said roof truss upper apex.